



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Press Release

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Idaho Honey Production Decreased 5 Percent

Idaho honey production in 2008 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 3.60 million pounds, a 5 percent decrease from 2007, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Honey producing colonies are estimated at 90,000 colonies, down 2,000 colonies from last year. Yield per colony averaged 40 pounds, down one pound from 2007. Producer honey stocks were 1.44 million pounds on December 15, 2008, a decrease of 22 percent from the previous year. The average honey price per pound is \$1.42, up 27 cents from a year ago.

U.S. Honey production in 2008 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 161 million pounds, up 8 percent from 2007. There were 2.30 million colonies producing honey in 2008, down 6 percent from 2007. Yield per colony averaged 69.9 pounds, up 15 percent from the 60.7 pounds in 2007. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, yields per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 50.4 million pounds on December 15, 2008, down 4 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2008 to 141.0 cents, up 31 percent from 107.7 cents in 2007. U.S. and State level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, cooperatives, and private channels. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Honey prices for 2008 were up from the previous year for all color classes and marketing channels. Prices for the 2007 crop reflect honey sold in 2007 and 2008. Some 2007 crop honey was sold in 2008, which caused some revisions to the 2007 crop prices.

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